ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to an efficient and economical method of making teprenone. Teprenone is synthesized by converting geranylgeraniol to teprenone by a novel route. The method of synthesis can begin with geranylgeraniol obtained from a biological source such as fermentation of a microorganism capable of producing geranylgeranyl or enzymatic synthesis in a cell free system to produce predominantly the 5E isomer of teprenone. The chemical synthesis proceeds with retention of configuration such that the teprenone produced has the isomeric configuration of the geranylgeraniol starting material.